



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Lightning Destroys Salt Water Disposal Site in Williams County

BISMARCK, N.D. – A lightning strike early the morning of June 1 caused an explosion, fire and release of fluids from the Belle Salt Water Disposal site approximately 12 miles northwest of Williston, according to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). The site is owned by Oasis Petroleum and was completely destroyed in the incident.

Approximately 1,200 barrels of salt brine and one or more barrels of residual crude oil were released. Approximately 995 barrels have been recovered.

According to Kris Roberts of the Environmental Health Section of the NDDoH, “field screening and sampling have been underway since Sunday. Remediation has begun with soil removal, dike building, and soil amendments to offset the effects of the salt.” Initial screening indicated that no brine reached a nearby intermittent stream.

The NDDoH and the North Dakota Industrial Commission, Oil and Gas Division, are on-scene to confer with Oasis Petroleum on sampling and remediation.

For more information, contact Kris Roberts, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701-328-5236.

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